

the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals and saying to them, "Stay safe."

TRIBUTE TO MR. SERGIO SHEARER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 4, 2011, San Antonio lost a great public servant when Sergio Shearer passed away at the age of 71. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergio Shearer as we celebrate his life, which was highlighted by decades of community service, philanthropy, and leadership.

Sergio Shearer was born on December 4, 1939 to Chita Shearer in Weslaco, Texas. He later married Lucinda S. Leyva and fathered three children, Andrea Rhea Shearer-Lee, Michael Leyva Shearer, and Kara Kristine Shearer.

He graduated from North Texas University with a degree in Psychology, while simultaneously attending cosmetology school in Ft. Worth, Texas. After serving in the United States Army, Sergio opened a successful and prestigious salon in McAllen, Texas which he operated for over 13 years. In 1976, the Shearer family purchased the Magic Valley College in San Juan, Texas. Through his tireless efforts, Sergio expanded Magic Valley College to become the University of Cosmetology Arts and Science. As a result of Sergio's direction and dedication to educating others, he created five campuses in the Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio, Texas. His efforts have touched the lives of many.

As a leader in the cosmetology industry, Sergio was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to the Texas Cosmetology Commission. He also served as the Vice President of the National Association of Cosmetology Schools, Director of the Texas Association of Cosmetology Schools, and Regional Director of the Interstate Council of State Boards. In 1989, he was inducted into the Pivot Hall of Fame.

In addition to his dedication to the cosmetology industry, Sergio was committed to serving his community. He served as the Chairman of the Edinburg Housing Authority, Board Member of the Hidalgo County Special Olympics, Honorary Member of the Confederate Air Force and as a member of the Order of the Alhambra. Sergio was also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, where he achieved the rank of 4th Degree Knight. Following the loss of his daughter, Kara Kristine Shearer, Sergio cofounded the Kara Shearer Learning Center, which partners with the Edinburg Housing Authority to serve underprivileged children.

Upon his retirement, Sergio moved to the San Antonio area to be closer to his family. A lifelong fisherman, hunter, and accomplished golfer, Sergio was always happiest when he was outdoors.

The City of San Antonio and the State of Texas feel a little emptier now, but we have all lived richer, better lives because of the life of Sergio Shearer. His life may have ended, but

his contributions will live on and generations shall enjoy the fruits of his labor.

JESSICA CAMOMILE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Camomile for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Camomile is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Camomile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Camomile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the privilege of visiting the Republic of Korea through their Congressional Member Exchange Program, where I was honored to have a one-on-one meeting with Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan so that we could discuss our two countries' mutual interests and bilateral relations.

In addition, I was able to meet with Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon and a number of members of the National Assembly, as well as to travel to Anyang, which is just south of Seoul. Anyang is a sister city of Garden Grove, one of the larger communities in California's 47th congressional district and the home to many Americans of Korean descent and recent immigrants from Korea.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I make a point of paying close attention to the issues that affect U.S.-Korean relations, so making a five-day visit to our ally was productive and informative. I was impressed by how much average Korean citizens know about the United States and how much they care about the continued resilience of the decades-old friendship between our two countries.

If nothing else, I came away more convinced than ever of the importance of ratifying the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement at the earliest opportunity possible. I saw how businesses and consumers in both Korea and the United States will benefit by implementation of the agreement, and it became quite clear that this will take us a long way toward President Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports by 2014.

What's more, I could see how increasing the already booming trade between the United States and South Korea will enhance our security relationship and improve the stability of the Korean Peninsula and, indeed, of the entire Northeast Asian region.

In the months since the United States and Korea signed their revised and updated Free Trade Agreement last December, the Korean government has approved a similar trade pact with the European Union, which is scheduled to take effect on the first day of July this year. Korea is also negotiating a free trade treaty with Australia, and it already has a volume of trade with China of approximately \$200 billion per year.

I realize there are some who argue that this agreement should be passed as part of a package, along with pending agreements with Colombia and Panama. These arguments may have some merit, but they do not persuade me that delaying the Korea-U.S. FTA is a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to move as quickly as possible to ratify the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement as soon as it comes before us for consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1363, the "Department of Defense and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011," a damaging deflection, even as negotiations are ongoing to prevent a government shutdown. H.R. 1363 would reduce funding for the Department of Homeland Security operations by \$1.4 billion. The cuts are far from surgical in nature and diminish the Department's flexibility to respond and recover from known and unknown threats.

Specifically, H.R. 1363 undermines homeland security as follows:

The bill cuts FEMA first responder grants by 20%. This draconian cut will force cash-strapped State, local and tribal governments to roll back critical preparedness activities and is a slap in the face to the men and women who serve and protect.

It cuts funding for next generation border security technology by 28%. This will surely set back efforts at achieving operational control of the Southwest border.

It cuts \$57 million in funding for Transportation Security Administration's terrorist watchlist activities. This cut will force TSA to scramble to find the money to undertake this critical screening activity.

It cuts the Science and Technology Directorate operations by \$173 million. This cut will most certainly result in significant delays in the development of new and promising homeland security technologies.

Rather than slashing the DHS budget to grand-stand or score political points, we should be dedicating new resources to: